

Public Law 101-264  
101st Congress

Joint Resolution

Apr. 4, 1990  
[S.J. Res. 250]

Designating April 1990 as "National Recycling Month".

- Whereas the continued generation of enormous volumes of solid waste each year presents unacceptable threats to human health and the environment;
- Whereas several regions of the United States are experiencing a severe shortage of disposal capacity for municipal solid waste;
- Whereas as a result of the inability to find sites for new solid waste management facilities, many communities are managing waste in facilities that were not designed with the best available environmental controls;
- Whereas the generation of hazardous waste and solid waste must be reduced and as much remaining waste as possible must be recycled to protect human health and the environment and to minimize treatment and disposal capacity problems;
- Whereas a significant amount of waste can be diverted from disposal by the utilization of source separation, mechanical separation, and community-based recycling programs;
- Whereas local governments should be an integral component of the decisionmaking process regarding the management of municipal solid waste;
- Whereas developing a system of waste management that, to the greatest extent practicable, separates elements of the waste stream that require special management or that are in demand for reuse or recycling will enhance the economic feasibility and environmental safety of all management methods, including recycling, incineration, and land disposal;
- Whereas source reduction and recycling represent the most environmentally sound means of managing municipal solid waste and can often be carried out with a lower cost than is incurred by other means;
- Whereas recycling preserves limited landfill capacity and reduces the amount of solid waste intended for incineration;
- Whereas recycling can save energy and avoid the pollution created from extracting resources from their natural environment;
- Whereas the revenues recovered by recycling programs offset the costs of solid waste management;
- Whereas a well-developed system of recycling scrap metals, paper, and glass already exists and is significantly reducing the quantity of solid waste entering landfills or incinerators;
- Whereas the technology for recycling plastic is currently under development, and progress continues toward increasing potential markets;
- Whereas many consumer products are designed without sufficient regard for safe and efficient recycling after disposal;
- Whereas Federal, State, and local governments should promote the design of products that can be recycled safely and efficiently;

Whereas Federal, State, and local governments should enact legislative measures that will increase the amount of solid waste that is recycled;

Whereas Federal, State, and local governments should encourage the growth of incremental markets for materials recovered from recyclable goods;

Whereas Federal, State, and local governments should establish incentives for household separation of waste to encourage recycling;

Whereas the success of source reduction and recycling programs depends on the participation of an informed public; and

Whereas the people of the United States should be encouraged to participate in educational and legislative endeavors that promote waste separation methods, community-based recycling programs, and expanded utilization of recovered materials: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That April 1990 is designated as "National Recycling Month", and the President of the United States is authorized and requested to issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe the month with appropriate ceremonies and activities.*

Approved April 4, 1990.

---

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—S.J. Res. 250:

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 136 (1990):

Feb. 26, considered and passed Senate.

Mar. 28, considered and passed House.